Remarks

The Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite that the network structure has a configuration in which linear elements are connected to each other to form a network and that the linear elements contain a liquid crystal polyester and a non-liquid-crystalline polyester and/or polyphenylene sulfide. Support may be found in a variety of locations such as on Page 18 at Lines 1 – 4 and Paragraph 3; Page 20, Paragraph 3; and the paragraph spanning Pages 26 and 27, for example.

Claim 28 has been amended to recite that the content of liquid crystal polyester in the resin composition (A) is 20 to 90 percent by weight. Support may be found in Claim 20, for example.

The Applicants have added new Claims 37 – 39. New Claim 37 recites that the content of the liquid-crystalline polyester in the network structure including film layer is 50 to 90 percent by weight. Support may be found in the paragraph spanning Pages 27 and 28 wherein the range is inherently within the broader range disclosed in that language and Examples 1-5 and 8-12 as shown in Table 1, for example.

New Claim 38 recites that the content of the liquid-crystalline polyester in the composition (A) is 50 to 90 percent by weight. Support may be found in original Claim 28 and Examples 1 and 2 as shown in Table 1, for example.

Finally, new Claim 39 recites that the blend chips used in the composition (A) or a part of the composition (A), and the polymer blend chips are prepared by mix-kneading a liquid crystal polyester and a non-liquid-crystalline polyester and/or polyphenylene sulfide of a 95:5 – 50:50 ratio by weight beforehand. Support may be found on Page 41 at Lines 16 – 18 and Examples 1, 2 and 4-9 as shown in Table 1, for example. Entry into the official file and consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10 – 14, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 over Takashi. The Applicants respectfully submit that Takashi fails to provide disclosure, teachings or suggestions that would render those claims obvious under §103. Reasons are set forth below.

Takashi discloses a biaxially stretched film including polyester and immiscible polymer. However, Takashi does not disclose that by limitation of the content of the liquid crystal polyester, a network structure is formed which comprises linear elements such as those shown in Fig. 1 containing a liquid crystal polyester and a non-liquid-crystalline polyester and/or

polyphenylene sulfide. This difference improves the thermal expansion coefficient of the laminated film as shown in the Applicants' examples in their Specification.

Takashi discloses liquid-crystalline polyester as an immiscible polymer. Takashi discloses polyethylene, polypropylene, polymethylpenten, polymethylbuten, polycarbonate and polyphenylene sulfide as immiscible polymers.

In sharp contrast, Takashi does not disclose a film including liquid-crystalline polyester in the example. Takashi discloses only films including polyolefin (polypropylene) in the example. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that one skilled in the art would know or have reason to select liquid-crystalline polyester from the many polymers disclosed by Takashi.

Moreover, the Takashi film has "distributed particles" which consist of immiscible polymer. Therefore, it would be difficult for one skilled in the art to control the content of liquid-crystalline polyester to make the network structure consisting of linear elements containing a liquid crystal polyester on the basis of Takashi. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Takashi fails to disclose, teach or suggest a network structure having a configuration in which linear elements are connected to each other to form a network and that the linear elements contain a liquid crystal polyester and a non-liquid-crystalline polyester and/or polyphenylene sulfide.

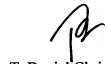
Also, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure in Takashi that would cause one skilled in the art to make modifications that would or could lead to such a claimed structure. In fact, Takashi fails to provide teachings that would enable one skilled in the art to produce such a network structure. Takashi fails to appreciate such a structure and, therefore, inherently fails to provide teachings as to how to form such a structure. Withdrawal of the rejection based on Takashi is respectfully requested.

Claims 30 – 32 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 over the combination of Nakatani with Takashi. The Applicants respectfully submit that Nakatani fails to provide additional teachings with respect to the Applicants' claimed network having a configuration in which linear elements are connected to each other to form a network and the linear elements contain a liquid crystal polyester and a non-liquid-crystalline polyester and/or polyphenylene sulfide. As a result, even if one skilled in the art were to make the hypothetical combination of Nakatani with Takashi, the resulting film would still be different from that recited in Claims 30 – 32.

Claims 6 and 33 – 36 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 over the combination of Nakamura with Takashi. The Applicants respectfully submit that Nakamura fails to provide additional teachings with respect to the Applicants' claimed network having a configuration in which linear elements are connected to each other to form a network and the linear elements contain a liquid crystal polyester and a non-liquid-crystalline polyester and/or polyphenylene sulfide. As a result, even if one skilled in the art were to make the hypothetical combination of Nakamura with Takashi, the resulting film would still be different from that recited in Claims 6 and 33 – 36.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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